

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority **Business Meeting 11:00 A.M.**

Telephone Meeting

November 15, 2012 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Edna Fund, City of Centralia; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Arnold Haberstroh, City of Chehalis; Ron Averill, Lewis County Commissioner; Ken Estes, City of Montesano; Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County Commissioner; Vickie Raines, City of Cosmopolis; Lionel Pinn, City of Napavine; Jim Cook, City of Aberdeen; Dolores Lee, Town of Pe Ell; Terry Willis, Grays Harbor County Commissioner

Board Members Absent: Dan Thompson, City of Oakville

Others Present: Scott Boettcher, SBGH Partners; Jim Kramer, Facilitator; Julie Balmelli-Powe, Congresswoman Herrera-Buetler's office; Lisa, the Chronicle; Chris Hempleman, Department of Ecology; Lee Napier, Lewis County Community Development Director

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from October 18, 2012
- Governor's Group Final Framework of Recommendations
- Potential Projects Descriptions, Tier I and II
- Potential Projects Tally Sheet, Tier I
- Potential Projects Tally Sheet, Tier II

1. Call to Order

Chairman Raines called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made.

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes; agenda approved.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes from October 18, 2012

There were no changes or corrections; meeting notes approved.

5. Update: Governor's Group Final Framework of Recommendations

Mr. Kramer stated that the framework document sent out yesterday was the same as the Board saw on November 1. There were a few minor changes to the document but the recommendations stayed the same. There is a new section "Moving Forward" on page 6 which includes recommendations for the work needed prior to the start of the next state biennium. This work includes scoping for fish studies and other studies need to start immediately.

Thanks are extended to the Chehalis Tribe who bought the screw trap that allows monitoring downstream migration of juvenile salmon. The work group's recommendations to the Governor included: continue this work; continue oversight for work to occur this year; appoint a new governor's

group to oversee the work in the next biennium; create a technical steering committee in addition to the work group to oversee work that needs to be done; select a project manager; and lastly, develop the process for implementing the recommendations in the next biennium.

The group met with the Governor yesterday and she was not ready to conclude how much funding would go into the budget; she will announce her decision in mid-December. The Governor was very supportive of recommendations and had a broad consensus of recommendations. She was very complimentary of the Flood Authority and the work group over the last year.

Commissioner Valenzuela stated she is optimistic that most of the projects will find their way into the capital budget. The Governor is sincere about this group and its work and is motivated to put to use most of what the group gave her.

Mr. Pinn thanked the work group for their extra work coordinating with the Governor to make sure the Basin's voices are being heard.

6. Flood Warning System – Operations and Maintenance Costs

Mr. Kramer mentioned the article in the paper that Aberdeen had approved paying their share of the Early Warning System. Mr. Cook stated that issue was not on the original agenda but it was added and voted on.

Mr. Kramer stated Lewis County had received the invoice from WEST and cannot make the payment until the jurisdictions have made their payments to Lewis County. The invoice that was sent out asks for payment by the end of December but it would be very helpful if payment could be received before that date. Lewis County has received payment from five jurisdictions.

There was discussion about the \$1500 per jurisdiction for the web site. Commissioner Averill stated the cost per jurisdiction needs to be rectified. Another funding source is being sought but it is unknown if there will be another source. If there is no other source, the challenge from Aberdeen's attorney is that a new ILA must be signed by all parties. The current ILA says if a jurisdiction provides funding there will be an ILA to cover that.

The jurisdictions that have already paid are: Cosmopolis, Oakville, Lewis County, Thurston County and Bucoda.

Commissioner Willis stated payment has not gone before the Grays Harbor Commissioners because there is not a current invoice with the correct amount. When that is received she will be sure it gets paid.

7. Revised Capital Project List

Mr. Kramer stated there were a few changes made to the descriptions but no overall changes were made. Additional changes were added to the benefits. Mr. Boettcher stated the list is broken out into two tiers. Tier 1 is projects already funded through the Jobs Now Act. Tier 2 is other projects that need funding support.

Ms. Hempleman stated a couple of those projects have been noticed at DOE. She wants to be sure that work is coordinated with DOE if there is going to be construction of a dike or wall. This work should be

done early on for high impact projects. Mr. Kramer asked Ms. Hempleman to let him know what those projects were.

Commissioner Willis mentioned again the request to put a team together for permitting. There is a need to bring DOE and others in early to have those conversations.

Commissioner Averill stated there are three or four options to take but they won't happen unless someone is actively pursuing the projects in terms of a permitting team. In the case of Commissioner Willis, you are talking state and local agencies and two tribes and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Boettcher stated if you are working in a water body or navigable water body you have to require permits from all levels of government and it gets complicated. Bigger projects usually have a water element to them and they take more time. Commissioner Willis' idea was to streamline that process.

Mr. Kramer stated a topic for the next meeting will be a permit team discussion. There was concurrence on that proposal.

8. Financial Report

There were no questions on the financial report.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Reports

a. Chair's Report

Chairman Raines stated another telephone meeting has been scheduled for next month. She stated Cosmopolis is moving forward on Phase II of the Mill Creek Dam project.

b. Member Reports

Lewis County - Commissioner Averill stated as Fiscal Agent Lewis County is in good shape because Ms. Olson has managed the books very well. Lewis County is in transition between Mr. Johnson and Ms. Napier and he hopes nothing slips through the cracks. If anyone besides Grays Harbor County needs more description, get with Lewis County. We need something that will stand up in an audit.

Commissioner Averill stated some work for WEST has been approved so that can get started. We want the Early Warning System up and working as we approach the heavy rainy season.

Montesano – Mr. Estes stated OFM has signed off on their project and it went out for bids.

Pe Ell – Ms. Lee requested that the Chronicle clarify a statement it made that Mr. Vander Stoep was the Flood Authority representative for Pe Ell. Mr. Vander Stoep is Ms. Lee's alternate.

Grays Harbor County – Commissioner Willis stated there is a contract in place with OFM for the Satsop restoration project.

There were no other member reports.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 20 – a conference call between 11:00 and 12:00. Mr. Boettcher stated he would work on a different conference call center due to problems with people being able to call in today.

Mr. Cook commented that he thought Mr. Vander Stoep was doing a good job for Pe Ell.

Mr. Vanell asked what the next step is for the Flood Authority now that the final framework has been completed. Chairman Raines stated one option is to discuss quarterly meetings versus monthly meetings to alleviate some costs. It is anticipated that whatever is put into the budget will look similar to the Jobs Now Act. If that is the case there will not be a need for a lot of discussion. She foresees the Flood Authority continuing but meeting less frequently.

Mr. Kramer stated he and Mr. Boettcher have asked for a meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair early in December regarding the work program for next year. That work program will be in draft form prior to the December meeting.

Chairman Raines stated a new chair and vice chair will be elected in January.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.